

CLAIMS

1. An ocular irrigating solution for irrigating the eye during surgery comprising, a source of bicarbonate ions and a physiologically acceptable organic buffer which is an organic zwitterionic buffer having a buffering capacity within the range pH 6.8 to 8.0.

2. An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 1, wherein the organic buffer maintains the solution at a pH in the range 7.2 to 7.8.

3. An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the organic buffer is a zwitterionic amino acid.

4. An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 3, wherein the organic buffer is N-2-[hydroxyethyl]piperazine-N'-(2-ethanesulfonic acid).

5. An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the buffer is from 10 to 50 mmol/l.

6. An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 1, wherein the bicarbonate source is sodium bicarbonate.

7. An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 6, wherein the bicarbonate source is preferably present in the solution to give a bicarbonate concentration of about 10 to 50 mmol/l.

8. An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 1 which does not contain glucose, or any other energy source which tends to degrade at physiological pH over extended time periods.

9. An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 1 having been sterilised by an autoclaving procedure.

10. An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 1, for use in a surgical method performed on the eye.

-12-

11. A method of surgery performed on the human eye in which an ocular irrigating solution according to any ~~claim~~ ^a one of claims 1 to 9 is employed to replace fluid loss during the operation and to maintain corneal function.

12. An ocular irrigating solution substantially as hereinbefore described, with reference to the accompanying examples.

Abd
B21